(in) Reduction in customs duty on Optical Fibre ifrom 85 per cent to 40 percent.

(iv) Reduction is the exciee city on Optical Fibie Cables from 3a percent to 20 percsnt.

Excise duty on. pressure coakerg

88 SHRI KRISHNA LAL, SHARMA; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that use or pressure cookers among masses ox the country is gradually on the in-crease;

(b) whether it *is* also a fact that imposition Of excise duty on pressure cookers has discouraged the use *at*

pressure cookers ani has encouragedd use of more subsidised kerosene;

(c) whether it is also a fact that levy of excise duty on pressure cookers is likely to yield Rs. 4 crores « year whereas the use of more subsidised kerosene is to cost Rs. 17 crores a year;

(d) if so, reasons for imposition of excise duty on pressure cookers; and

(e) if so whethrer Government propose to review its decision in this regard, if so, when, if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (d) As part of the overall policy of broadening the tax base and to give protection to the tiny and small units, excise duty on pressure cookers was imposed in this budget at the rate of 10 percent. The effective increase in excise duty will be considerably less as the manufac-turers will be able to take full credit of excise duty paid on their inputs. Besides small scale units making pressure cookers will not nave to pay any excise duty on their clearances upto Rs. 30 lakhs, and the incidence of duty will be borne only by biggea units. There is no information that uie imposition of excise duty has discouraged the use of pressure cookers resulting in greater use of kerosene, and as such it is not possible to quantify the extent of increased use, *it* any, of subsidised kerosene. Impost tion of excise duty on pressure cook-erg is likely to yield some revenu* which is difficult to quantify as Mad-vat benefits vary from unit to unit. Besides, certain quantity is being made. by small scale units also who either pay no exciee or pay only a . concessional duty.

(c) in view of the above, there is no proposal to withdraw the imposition of excise duty on pressure cookers.

Stow down in the pace *of* economic development

90. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whethtr it is a fact that inflat-tion and opposition to the major reforms have led to slowing down oi pace of economic development of the country;

(b) if so, to what extent these factors are responsible for slowing down' of economic development in the country; and

(c) whether any steps are being contemplated in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY, OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not qrise.